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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/035,829	
	Filing Date	10/18/2001	
	First Named Inventor	Vlad J. Novotny	
	Art Unit	2874	
	Examiner Name	Unknown	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	16	Attorney Docket Number	AONIP001C1

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	2. Application Data Sheet - 2 pages.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	3. Return Receipt Postcard	
<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>		
Firm or Individual name	Silicon Edge Law Group LLP, Arthur J. Behiel, Patent Attorney	
Signature		
Date	10/20/03	

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Vlad J. Novotny and Parvinder Dhillon

Assignee: Active Optical Networks, Inc.

Title: "MICRO-OPTO-ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SWITCHING  
SYSTEM"

Serial No.: 10/035,829 File Date: 10/18/01

Examiner: Unknown Art Unit: 2874

Docket No.: AON1P001C1 (AO-666)

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Domestic Priority Claim Information to Update the Filing  
Receipt

Dear Sir:

Applicants have amended the "Domestic Priority Claim and Continuity Information" on the enclosed Application Data Sheet in an attempt to comply with the new Patent Office requirements for indicating specified relationships between applications to claim the benefit of prior applications under 35 USC §120. Unfortunately, those new Patent Office requirements are vague and confusing, and contradict historic understanding as well as current and former laws and Patent Office rules. As such, applicants are unsure of how to characterize the various applications, and have amended the sections to appease the Patent Office but cannot

provide any assurance as to which of several unclear and contradictory relationship definitions the applications may assume.

For example, MPEP §201.07 (R1, Feb. 2003) states: "A continuation is a second application for the same invention claimed in a prior nonprovisional application and filed before the original prior application becomes abandoned or patented." However, MPEP §804, listing the requirements of double patenting rejections (including provisional rejections), states: "Where the claims of an application are substantively the same as those of a first patent, they are barred under 35 U.S.C. 101 - the statutory basis for a double patenting rejection. A rejection based on double patenting of the 'same invention' type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101." Thus, according to the definition of continuation application provided by MPEP §201.07, no valid continuation of a patent can exist, in contrast to long-standing patent practice and many thousands of issued patents.

According to MPEP §201.08 (R1, Feb. 2003): "A continuation-in-part is an application filed during the lifetime of an earlier nonprovisional application, repeating some substantial portion or all of the earlier nonprovisional application and adding matter not disclosed in the said earlier nonprovisional application." This is in contrast to the Notice in the March 18, 2003 Official Gazette of the USPTO, which states: "the designation of an application as a continuation (rather than as a continuation-in-part) is an indication that the entire invention claimed in an application has support in the prior application, whereas the designation of an application as a continuation-in-part is an indication that the claimed

invention is not entirely supported by the prior application." In other words, to define a CIP the MPEP looks to whether an application has added subject matter, whereas the Official Gazette Notice directs applicants to determine whether the claimed invention is entirely supported by the prior application, without regard to whether subject matter has been added.

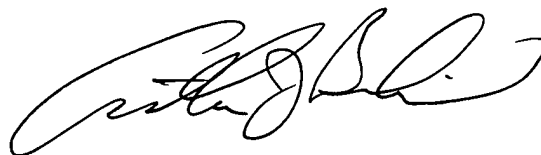
Neither 35 U.S.C §120 nor 37 CFR §1.78 requires the characterization of an application as a continuation versus a divisional versus a continuation-in-part. Perhaps for this reason, the MPEP in effect a few months ago made it clear that the terms "continuation," "CIP," "divisional," etc. had no legal significance. As stated in MPEP Edition 8, §201.11: "Continuing applications include those applications which are called divisions, continuations, and continuations-in-part. As far as the right under the statute is concerned the name used is immaterial, the names being merely expressions developed for convenience. The statute is so worded that the first application may contain more than the second, or the second application may contain more than the first, and in either case the second application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the first as to the common subject matter."

Given the vague, confusing and contradictory meanings proposed by the Patent Office, applicants are unsure what a "continuation application" is, what a "continuation-in-part application" is and what a "divisional application" is.

Applicants therefore resubmit their status letter and related papers mailed May 5, 2003, along with an updated Application Data Sheet.

Applicants therefore request the filing receipt  
"Domestic Priority Data as Claimed by Applicant" section to  
be updated with the information found in the accompanying  
Application Data Sheet.

Respectfully Submitted,



Arthur J. Behiel  
Reg. No. 39,603

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to: Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA,  
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Laurie Moreno  
Name

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